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FOREIGN.

The Franco-Prussian War.

Meieres Capitulates to the Prussian Besiegers.

The Parisians Suffering for Want of Fuel.

Fearful Rate of Mortality in the City.

Spirit of the Paris Press.

King William's New Year's Address to the Officers of the German Army.

FRANCE.

IN AND AROUND PARIS.

London, Jan. 3.—German accounts of the bombardment of the forts to the southeast of Paris, are exultingly claim a decided victory, confirming the French troops to evacuate the outposts of Petit Bicetre and Bonneuil, at an early hour yesterday morning. Even Meaux remained silent throughout the whole day, on Sunday, and it is thought has been, or will be, evacuated.

Dispatches from Versailles state that it was the intention of the French to make an attack on the forces of the Crown Prince on Sunday. It is also said that attacks are to be made immediately on Bobinson, Chatillon, Issy, and Montrouge.

—Gen. Trochu, on Sunday, issued a proclamation to the people of Paris, in which he says: "Our cannon will not be silenced by the cold weather."

—Bread is plentiful in the city, and the health continues good.

—Advices from Port Arthur, was received yesterday.

—The Prussians use shells, they guns being of longer range than those of the French.

—The French troops are joyful over the report of the resignation of the unknown Ministry.

—The Journal des Debats says: "The Parisian people will be ready to do their duty, and the nation as to whether the French should perish by the resistance or by the peace. The issue of the struggle is more energetic and more fully sustained, under the circumstances, than the Prussians imagined. The Prussians do not believe the city can hold out, but they will be undeceived."

—The Times of France says the bombardment of Montmedy has commenced.

—The Times of London says that it has been officially announced to the Prussian besieging army, that the French Government has positively refused to surrender to whatever of the provisional Government may be established in Paris, in the capitulation. The Prussians to do before the city will be obliged to treat with the Government of the Provinces should the city and army not surrender.

THE GENERAL SITUATION AS SEEN FROM NORMANDY.

[Correspondence of the London Daily News.] Rouen is now entirely quiet and Versailles is not yet entirely quiet. Yesterday was a week ago that I left Versailles, and I have not been concerned for the French.

—Advices from Paris to December 30, received here, state that the Germans were in urgent need of rockets to make a sortie with on enormous scale, and that they were about to attempt to storm the city whether it bombarding and the artillery for the defense or not. It is said that the Germans have determined that the city will be pushed to surrender before the 1st of January, or they will raise the siege.

—It appears that General von Moltke, after the battle of Pont Noyelles, between the armies of Generals Faidherbe and Manteuffel, on the 23d, sent a dispatch to Versailles that the French forces of the North had been annihilated. General Faidherbe's report contradicts this.

SPECULATIONS.

New York, Jan. 3.—The Herald's correspondent at Versailles says: "It is reported that the Prussians have received a peremptory demand for money from his command for not bombarding the city.

It is probable that General Burnside and Chancellor Crafts, and perhaps Governor Buckingham, will be appointed to the vacancies.

—Chief Justice Beasley, of the New Jersey Supreme Court, died at Trenton, on Sunday, aged 74 years.

—Gen. Burnside has gone to Washington.

—Gen. Joseph Hooker, of the Army of the Potomac, in the officers of the German army, is now confined to his room at the Brevoort House. The French Government will be delivered to the King.

—The Paris correspondent of the London Times says that the Germans have not yet begun to bombard the city. The French are in high spirits at no stage of the struggle showed greater confidence than now. The Germans could have left Paris if they would.

SPAIN.

MADRID, Jan. 3.—Perfect quietude is maintained through this city at the death of General Serrano. The Government has issued a circular to its friends, who have left Madrid, to return. He was personally aware of his danger. He expressed great anxiety for the future of Spain, and his last words were: "Spain, Spain, Spain." Serrano's funeral will be attended by the Queen Regent, the Ministers, and all the Generals in command of troops.

—The Prussian troops are joyful over the report of the resignation of the unknown Ministry

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CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

In the January number of *The North American Review* is published a paper entitled "Civil Service Reform," by the Hon. Jacob D. Cox, late Secretary of the Interior. The circumstances attending the resignation of Mr. Cox from the Cabinet gave to the subject a strong public interest, and this paper, coming from him, is both timely and appropriate. Mr. Cox traces the origin and character of the abuses of patronage, and points out a means of removing partisan control in public affairs, and party success in public life, and shows how this system was expanded until the mere distribution of the patronage of the government fails to satisfy partisan demands, and new places have to be created, and frauds connived at for the sake of party.

The views of Mr. Cox are very forcibly presented and well, in the main, command the support of the people. He also indicates the means of deliverance, whereby Congress can be freed from Executive dictation, and the Executive can be freed from the selfish importunities of Congressmen, and whereby the country can be relieved from the pressure in Congress of incompetent and corrupt representatives. This system of deliverance is the discontinuance of all patronage, and the opening of the civil service to competitive examination. The review of the present system by the presentation of notorious facts of the most scandalous abuses, whereby the public interests are perilled, to promote the ends of the lower and baser class of partisans, whose political existence depends upon controlling party conventions through the distribution of local offices. In presenting this point Mr. Cox exaggerates nothing. The effect of this mode of selecting clerks and administrative officers is to be seen in the great amount of incompetency which is found in the public service, and which defiantly retains its place, under the protecting power of members of Congress, who, in the interest of the Executive seeking a re-election, or laboring to carry out a favorite policy, the power conferred by the Federal patronage is overwhelming. Patronage at home is the breath of life to the lower order of Congressmen, and they must yield to the Executive, or encounter the vengeance of those who control the district canvasses. This system is equally corrupting upon the Executive and upon Congress, the public interest being sacrificed by both. The remedy which Mr. Cox proposes is to apply to the civil service, completely and thoroughly, the plain principles of economic business administration; to separate the public offices, absolutely and forever, from all party patronage, and to make it finance: to declare patronage in all its forms to be anti-republican and dangerous to the State; to find and practice upon a principle of selection for office which shall give every citizen of the country a perfectly equal chance to prove his capacity and fitness for the public service, with thorough competitive examination as the means of selection; to make the tenure of office during good behavior, with the hope of rising to the highest grades of the position service by industry and strict devotion to duty."

The advantages of such a system have been verified by the recent partial adoption of it in the Census Bureau, where clerks having a special fitness for the work are selected from the competitive examinations, and are thereafter secure in their places. Most of the applicants entered when they were subjected to competitive examination, and of the others, not over 50 per cent were found equal to the very liberal standard established. The service gained by the rejection of the utterly incompetent was very great, and the work as a whole, if not perfect, was certainly better than it would otherwise have been appointed.

From this practical recognition of the administrative force of the government, Mr. Cox proceeds to consider what the Executive Department would need to make authoritatively superseded in or before Congress. Great evils have resulted from legislation under a misapprehension or misstatement of the facts and circumstances to which matters of all of which could be fully met by an authorized presentation of the true condition of affairs. In that case, too, the Executive, instead of influencing legislation by forming out the appointing power, would have the assistance of the cabinet officers in explaining and defending measures proposed by them, in the general policy of the country, which is the proper province of the Executive. In presenting this point Mr. Cox exaggerates nothing. The effect of this mode of selecting clerks and administrative officers is to be seen in the great amount of incompetency which is found in the public service, and which defiantly retains its place, under the protecting power of members of Congress, who, in the interest of the Executive seeking a re-election, or laboring to carry out a favorite policy, the power conferred by the Federal patronage is overwhelming. Patronage at home is the breath of life to the lower order of Congressmen, and they must yield to the Executive, or encounter the vengeance of those who control the district canvasses. This system is equally corrupting upon the Executive and upon Congress, the public interest being sacrificed by both. The remedy which Mr. Cox proposes is to apply to the civil service, completely and thoroughly, the plain principles of economic business administration; to separate the public offices, absolutely and forever, from all party patronage, and to make

THE LAW COURTS.

New Cases in Bankruptcy—Engaged by a River Tunnel.

Contest for the Possession of the Drake Block Site.

Administration on the Governor Blount Estate Stayed.

The Courts Generally.

The holiday law adjournment commenced the day of Christmas, and will end on Monday next, the 9th inst., when the courts will resume their sessions. Many of the lawyers and officers of the courts have left the city for a short visit to their friends in the country, and the remainder are taking a little rest from the labors of the year. The Circuit Court, however, has been in session every day since the holidays, and the Bankrupt Court has also been busy. The Criminal Court has had a short session, and the Probate Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Superior Court has been in session, and the Common Pleas Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Chancery Court has been in session, and the Equity Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Law Court has been in session, and the Law Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Criminal Court has been in session, and the Criminal Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Probate Court has been in session, and the Probate Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Superior Court has been in session, and the Superior Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Common Pleas Court has been in session, and the Common Pleas Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Chancery Court has been in session, and the Chancery Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Equity Court has been in session, and the Equity Court has been open for the transaction of business. The Law Court has been in session, and the Law Court has been open for the transaction of business.

The reduction of patronage from political considerations, which the President has declared to be the chief object of his second term, is likely to be carried out in the case of the Collector of Internal Revenue for this district. It is said that Mr. Lowe, the present incumbent, will receive notice of his removal from office in a few days, and that Mr. Lathrop, the Chief Deputy Collector, will be appointed to succeed him. Mr. Lathrop has been in the office for many years, and has the confidence of the Commissioner and the Secretary of the Treasury. He has also the indorsement of the Republican members of Congress from this district, and of the Republican State Committee. Mr. Lathrop is a gentleman of ability and integrity, and will make a good officer. Mr. Lowe has been a faithful and efficient officer, and has made many friends during the time he has been in office. He has been a consistent Republican, and has done good service for the party. He will be missed from the office, but will find a position elsewhere, we have no doubt.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular to the Collectors of Internal Revenue, in which he says that the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has reported to him that the Collectors have not been sufficiently careful in the appointment of their deputies, and that many of the appointments have been made for political reasons. The Secretary says that the Collectors must not appoint persons as deputies who have been guilty of violations of the revenue laws, or who have been dismissed from the service for cause. He also

WENDELL PHILLIPS.

His Lecture Last Evening on "The Lost Arts."

What the Ancients Knew of Glass, the Talisman, Color, Steel, and "Sherry Cobblers."

The appearance of Mr. Phillips upon the platform was greeted with a round of applause, which was not an indication one with the signal for a repetition of the same, but was simply a hearty welcome to the orator of the evening. He was received with cheers on a former occasion, when he delivered his lecture on "Toussaint L'Ouverture," and the audience last night was quite as large as it was then. The lecture he would deliver was announced as one of advice to the American people, but Mr. Phillips did not so consider it. The lecture he would deliver was one which he considered to be of a most practical character, and one which he believed to be pertinent to the present condition of the country. He believed that the present was a time when the people of this country should consider well the duties which devolved upon them, and he was glad to see so many present who might after all be willing to listen.

It was common subject of investigation. Animal history was the first that was commenced with. Then came vegetable history, and then mineral history. Next came history with regard to the mechanic arts. Here, then, was the point to which he wished to call attention. Why was it that the history of the mechanic arts was commenced last? Was it because they were considered of little importance? Was it because they were considered of little importance? Was it because they were considered of little importance